

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN GREG LIND**, on February 16, 2007 at 3:15 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Greg Lind, Chairman (D)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 445, 2/13/2007; SB 448,
2/12/2007; SB 432, 2/9/2007; SB
311, 2/7/2007; SB 313, 2/14/2007;
Executive Action: SB 445

00:01:09 Chairman Lind

HEARING ON SB 445

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:22 SEN. MITCH TROPILA (D), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 445, Expand energy conservation and efficiency program.

Proponents:

00:02:35 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:04:54 Louise Moore, Administrator, Environmental Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

00:06:26 Matt Loew, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MONT PRIG)

00:07:02 Mike Volesky, Governor's Office

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:08:43 Sen. Gebhardt to Sen. Tropila

00:11:30 Sen. Kaufmann to Patrick Judge, MEIC

Closing by Sponsor:

00:12:15 Sen. Tropila

HEARING ON SB 448

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:13:04 SEN. DAVID WANZENRIED (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 448, Ratepayer fiscal analysis for new power and transmission projects.

EXHIBIT (nas35a01)

Proponents:

00:15:45 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

00:19:13 Matt Leow, MONT PRIG

Opponents:

00:20:12 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a03\)](#)

00:26:01 John Alke, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources Group,
Inc. (MDU)

00:29:05 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives (MEC)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:29:38 Sen. Curtiss to Sen. Wanzenried

00:31:02 Sen. Kaufmann to Sen. Wanzenried

00:32:42 Sen. Lind to John Alke, MDU

Closing by Sponsor:

00:38:36 Sen. Wanzenried

HEARING ON SB 432

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:41:06 **SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN (R), SD 6**, opened the hearing on
SB 432, Generally revise biodiesel laws.

Proponents:

00:46:24 Van Jamison, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a04\)](#)

00:52:51 Mike Volesky, Governor's Office

00:55:08 Paul Miller, Sustainable Systems LLC

EXHIBIT(nas35a05)

00:58:02 Helen Waller, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

EXHIBIT(nas35a06)

00:59:11 David Bax, Self

01:03:47 Richard Parks, NPRC

01:04:09 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

EXHIBIT(nas35a07)

01:04:44 Matt Leow, MONT PRIG

01:04:57 Patrick Judge, MEIC

Opponents:

01:05:21 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

EXHIBIT(nas35a08)

01:11:59 Tad Dale, Vice President, Human Resources, Montana
Resources, LLP

EXHIBIT(nas35a09)

01:17:21 Spook Stang, Executive Vice President, Montana Motor
Carriers Association (MMCA)

EXHIBIT(nas35a10)

01:23:52 Barbara Ranf, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Company (BNSF)

01:25:40 Ronna Alexander, Montana Petroleum Marketers and
Convenience Store Association

01:29:06 Claude Van Winkle, Montana Rail Link

Informational Testimony:

01:30:01 Jack Kane, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

01:30:24 Matt Elsaesser, Student Advocates for Valuing the
Environment (SAVE)

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a11\)](#)

01:30:43 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association (MLA)

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a13\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:31:51 Sen. Tash to Jack Kane, DLI

01:32:18 Sen. Tash to Sen. Brueggeman

01:33:36 Sen. Gebhardt to Tad Dale, LLP Montana

Closing by Sponsor:

01:35:23 Sen. Brueggeman

HEARING ON SB 311

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:44:58 **SEN. ROY BROWN (R), SD 25**, opened the hearing on **SB 311**, Utility customer protection act.

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a15\)](#)

Proponents:

01:51:26 Brad Molnar, Commissioner, Public Service Commission
(PSC)

01:56:18 Bill Snoddy, Self

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a16\)](#)

Opponents:

01:58:12 Doug Mood, Commissioner, PSC

02:02:10 Greg Jergeson, Chairman, PSC

[EXHIBIT \(nas35a17\)](#)

02:08:47 John Fitzpatrick, NWE

02:10:31 Patrick Judge, MEIC

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

02:15:38 Sen. Brown

02:16:11 10 minute break

HEARING ON SB 313

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:23:09 **SEN. DAVID WANZENRIED (D), SD 49**, opened the hearing on
SB 313, Generation acquisition for certain utilities.

Proponents:

02:26:38 Greg Jergeson, PSC

Opponents:

02:37:44 David Hoffman, Manager of External Affairs, PPL Montana

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a18\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a19\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

02:44:11 John Fitzpatrick, NWE

[EXHIBIT\(nas35a20\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

02:53:28 Sen. Wanzenried

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 445

02:57:00 **Motion:** SEN. KAUFMANN moved that SB 445 DO PASS.

Discussion:

02:57:14 Sen. M. Tropila

02:59:25 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TROPILA CALLED THE QUESTION ON HB 445. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion:

03:00:24 Joe Kolman, LSD

03:03:11 Sen. Gebhardt

03:03:46 Sen. Harrington

03:04:53 Sen. Wanzenried to Sen. Gebhardt

03:05:27 Sen. Harrington

03:07:21 Sen. Gebhardt

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:20 P.M.

SEN. GREG LIND, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

GL/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nas35aad.pdf](#))